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# Gövernör Printz Park The Morton Homestead

on the

## PENNSYLVANIA TRAIL OF HISTORY



*The Morton Homestead*

Two Historical Shrines of New Sweden  
Pennsylvania's Oldest Frontier

## PENNSYLVANIA HISTORIC PROPERTIES

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*Governor Johan Printz*

THE *Pennsylvania* the historic Delaware years ago, Swedish a sylvania frontier, ma education, religion, n Commonwealth.

In Essington on the memorates the color in the Swedish royal four hundred pound permanent European

a year before the birth of William Penn, held combined residence and capitol), and a number of settlement were to be found the first crops, first as well as the first capital in Pennsylvania.

Today, a well-kept park on the site over see the foundations of the Printzhof, which u Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Coma.

About a mile north of GOVERNOR PRINTZ HOMESTEAD stands on the bank of Darby o F gives an insight into the architecture and of and Finnish settlers of the Delaware regioe I deduced into America were to accompany a the frontier moved across the continent. The al well be the oldest surviving structure in Pear have been built about 1654 by Morton Men, year with Governor Johan Rising or arrivew the building in 1698 according to a date in i house was measured for the Federal direc t log dwelling house, measuring 50 feet by 3, a is uncertain when the dormers and the sti i

Morton Mortonson was the great-grand of Independence; and local tradition, unfel was the birthplace of the Signer. For thes presenting the story of John Morton as v f history.

*Trail of History* begins along the shores of  
Ware River. Here, more than three hundred  
Finnish colonists established the first Penn-  
sylvania the beginnings of agriculture, industry,  
government within the boundaries of the

Swedish Island, GOVERNOR PRINTZ PARK com-  
manded energetic Johan Printz. A former officer  
of the Navy, this gargantuan man, weighing more than  
300 pounds, established on this island in 1643 the first  
settlement in Pennsylvania. Here, more than  
a century later, at Fort New Gothenburg, the Printzhof (a  
collection of other log structures. In and near this  
area were the first mills, the first church, and the first school

across the broad Delaware, and the visitor may  
be surprised to find the unearthing by the archaeologists of the  
Swedish settlement.

At the site in Prospect Park Borough, the MORTON  
C. Here, a quaint log-and-stone structure  
remains a reminder of the life of these too-often-neglected Swedish  
settlers. The log cabins which these people first intro-  
duced into the wilderness as the  
Swedish portion of the MORTON HOMESTEAD may  
be seen in Pennsylvania. Of log construction, it is believed to  
have been built by John Morton, who either came to New Sweden in that  
or a few years earlier. An addition was made to  
the structure inside the fireplace. By 1798 when the  
structure was described as a one-story  
building, approximately its present dimensions. It  
is believed that the stoves in the center were constructed.

John Morton, a Signer of the Declaration  
of Independence, holds that the HOMESTEAD  
is the first of its kind in the United States, the HOMESTEAD has been dedicated to  
the Swedish contribution to American



*East View of Morton Homestead*

*Visiting Hours*

SUMMER: Closed Monday. Open 8:30 A. M. to 5:00 P. M. Tuesday to Friday; 10:00 A. M. to 5:00 P. M. Saturday; 12:00 noon to 6:00 P. M. Sunday.

WINTER: Same as summer hours except that closing time is 4:30 P. M. every day when property is opened.

Telephone: Prospect Park, LEhigh 2-3060

